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WINTER'S RETREAT.

Old Winter has gone to his summer retreat,
To dance on the north pole with merry old feet;
In slippers of crystal and stockings of snow,
He seeks not for help his own music to blow.

His garments are frost-like, reflecting the rays
That beam down upon him on scant summer days.
The breeze that he stirs, whether cloudy or fair,
Sifts finely the powder that whitens his hair.

A noisy old fellow, a merry old king,
He needs not that praises or homage you bring,
Nor cares for an audience save the bright stars,
Nor would he be frightened to battle with Mars.

Aurora bor'al's lights up the whole place,
Her arc has illumined a wonderful space,
And whether 'tis daytime, or whether 'tis night,
The home of old Winter is ever alight.

Now old Father Time shows his wrinkles afar,
But jolly old Winter wears never a scar;
His force is not weakened, his force is not spent,
And his voice never falters when blowing up Lent.

Now good-bye old fellow, we'll see you again
When Autumn sweeps out with her glorious train,
Feel the sting of your clasp and the strength of your
nip,

But success now, we say, to your outgoing trip.
—MRS. M. J. SMITH.

TESSA'S TULIP.

AN EASTER STORY.

ROSE SEELYE MILLER.

PERHAPS you all know that years ago, when the so-called Dutch bulbs were very scarce, there was a great craze for them. I use the word "craze" advisedly, for it expresses but faintly the real state of affairs. The merchants of Amsterdam and other large cities carried on as fierce a speculation in Dutch bulbs as do the bulls and bears of Wall street in stocks and bonds, or as the Chicago Board of Trade in wheat. It seems almost incredible now, when the choicest bulbs can be bought at such low rates, but it is true. Tulips were especially rare; very few had come into cultivation. Where the first one came from I cannot tell, but it is a fact that men spent fortunes for these bulbs, a choice variety selling for an almost fabulous sum.

One evening in the fall, when Jacob Von Abram was journeying home from Amsterdam after selling his butter, eggs and fresh vegetables, he spied in the path in front of him a curious looking brown ball. It looked almost as if it might be a lump of dirt, but its shape was so globular it seemed a little uncommon. Jacob Von Abram was a very commonplace man with little education, for people were not as commonly educated then as they are now, and he knew little about the times and what fierce passions raged in the hearts of the men who gained and lost fortunes in such strange ways. Indeed, he could hardly have understood it had he been told, or had he read it in the papers, how men spent such sums of money for mere flowers. Of course he liked flowers in his dull way, but it was no passion with him, and in fact I doubt if he would have cared for

them at all if it had not been for good Frau Von Abram, who always had her patch of flowers in spite of all protests as to their being of no value in comparison to the cabbages and turnips, which always brought money in the markets.

Tessa Von Abram had inherited her mother's love for flowers in a strong degree. She had little to take her mind; though she had learned to read and write she cared little for the few books which the cottage afforded. When her daily morning tasks were well done she loved to go out to the little garden patch. She loved her flowers best, but she also liked to see the green vegetables growing fresh and rank, and free from weeds. So after she had done all she could for her floral pets she would work just as eagerly over the kitchen garden. She spent many hours out of doors in this delightful way, and never seemed to tire of her out-door life. It was so sweet to feel the breeze upon her cheek, to hear the hum of bees and songs of birds. Indeed, Tessa was a very pretty and happy girl.

Yacob Von Abram had driven his truck cart past that bit of round brown dirt, but in his stolid way of thinking it occurred to him it might please Tessa, so he went slowly back and picked it up. It looked a little different now he had it in his hand, almost as if it might be a new kind of onion, or something of that sort. It was not as large as the onions he grew in his garden but it was different, so with his usual saving habit he put it in one of his capacious pockets. Tessa ran to meet him as he entered the little home yard, and Yacob fumbling in his pocket produced the corm. "Here Tessa, lass, is something I found on the way home; dost know what it is?"

"Why no, father, I never saw its like before, but it must be something that will grow; we can tell by planting it and waiting its growing time."

"Ay, that we can, and if it be worth we can keep it, and if not it will be a small matter to throw it away afterwards."

"That it will, father," replied Tessa brightly, to whom the coming of even this small interest seemed wonderful. "Mother," she cried as Frau Von Abram came to the door, "see, father has found something," and she held out the bulb for that good woman's inspection. She examined it curiously but was quite as much at a loss to know what it was as were Tessa and her father. "Well, lass, you can plant it and whatever it comes to it is yours," she said fondly patting the girl's sunny curls.

So Tessa put the bulb into the soft brown mold she had put into an old broken-spouted teapot. This she set away in the cellar, for she was not sure whether it would stand the winter weather or not. The onions would be all soft in the spring if left out in the winter, and this might too. She placed it on a shelf in the root cellar where she knew it would be free

from frost, but she did not forget it. Every once in a while she visited it, but there it lay dormant. At last, when the spring winds blew in the pleasant places, she bethought her of the bulb, for be the truth told she had well nigh forgotten it after the first six weeks it had lain in its bed of brown earth. She went to the cellar and there on the shelf, peeping out from the broken-spouted teapot, she saw a bit of bluish green. She snatched it from the shelf and carried it triumphantly to the little home room where her father was smoking and dozing in his chair. "Look, father, mother, it has sprouted, it has sprouted, see the green!"

"What is it, lass; what is it that has sprouted?" her father said good naturedly.

"The little brown ball you found in the road, father; see the green there coming up through the mold."

"Aye, aye, lass, and what think it is?"

"Oh, I don't know, father; I do hope it is a flower," said Tessa, the crimson in her cheeks growing brighter and her soft eyes shining with pleasure.

"Aye, aye, lass, if it would best please thee so," her father replied indulgently.

"Put it in the window there where the sun will shine on it," said Frau Von Abram.

The little green sprout grew rapidly, and soon, to the amazement and delight of pretty little Tessa, a flower bud appeared. Never was flower so watched and tended before. In time it began to show color; the bud expanded and finally opened into a glorious glowing flower, with its rich blending of yellow and red that quite dazzled the inmates of the little cottage. Tessa hung over it as if spellbound, while Frau Von Abram often stopped from her household tasks to admire its beauty. The neighbors were as astonished as were the possessors of the wonderful flower, for none of them had ever seen its like before. One good frau patted Tessa's curls and said: "It'll bring thee good, child, I'll be bound. Just you take care of it and see that no ill befalls it. There's no telling what will come of it; some of the gentry may see it and give thee a price for it sometime; there's no telling."

Tessa pondered all these things in her heart, but thought the lovely flower had brought her good enough just by coming to stay with her. She kept it and tended it, and in time the leaves died down, then she put it away to await another resurrection.

* * * * *

The years went on; Tessa was now a beautiful girl of sixteen. She often went to Amsterdam with her father to sell the butter, eggs and cheese, for he said everybody wanted to buy of such a fresh looking lass. Among his customers were many of the wealthy men of the city. Ludwig Lund was one of the wealthiest. His place was a marvel to little Tessa, who had never imagined anything half so beautiful. She

always sold something there, and there she met young Carvel Lund, the only son of the proud family. Carvel, like a great many other young men, very much admired the beautiful Tessa. She was very shy with such grand folks, but Carvel's interest soon grew very strong, and he often met the young girl on her way to market, or in other places, and finally, as he came to know little Tessa better, his admiration grew stronger, until he told her the "old, old story" that is always new to fresh young hearts.

Tessa felt frightened, and did not know what to say, but she knew too well that though the handsome and brilliant Carvel might make love to her he could never go farther and make her his wife. She was a simple little girl, brought up without any knowledge of life save in its most primitive form.

"Say you love me, Tessa," Carvel pleaded, looking deep into her blue eyes. "Just say that and I will be quiet—for a while," he added.

Tessa was too simple to coquette, and she did say just what Carvel longed to hear. Then they passed on in silence, he carrying her basket, and she, with no thought of the future, feeling very happy.

"You will be my wife, Tessa," Carvel finally said.

"But your people are rich and grand, and mine are peasants. No, I see I can never be your wife," Tessa said simply, though there was a strange throb at her heart and the sunshine seemed half gone from the blue sky.

"Ah, well, but you, too, must be rich and grand, my Tessa; you are far fairer than the maids whom I know who are so," Carvel replied softly. He did not take Tessa's hand, though he longed to do so; he would wait till he could claim it, and then he would take Tessa, and they would live together always.

"Nay," said Tessa, "I can never come to you rich; I'm but poor, and my people would never let me wed you against your people's wishes."

"My people must be made to wish it, then, my Tessa," said Carvel.

That evening as the little family sat in the cottage door Tessa told her father and mother of young Carvel's wish. Frau Von Abram looked at Tessa fondly. "Thee hast always been a good lass, Tessa, and can bake and keep the house as well as any woman 'round, and make the butter and the cheese and all those things, but I fear that all these would stand for naught in the eyes of the grand Ludwig Lund."

"Stay with us lass yet awhile," said her father, "and we will find a husband among your own kind, it will be better so."

Little Tessa felt the truth of all this, but still she could not seem the same. Some way the flowers that had always given her pleasure seemed to lose their charm, and the daily tasks seemed harder. One evening in the early spring a handsome young man came to the door of the cottage; he looked tired and worn and seemed very unhappy. He asked for Herr Von Abram, and, after a long talk with him the Herr called his wife. "This is young Carvel Lund," he said simply.

"I have come," said young Carvel, "to seek your daughter for a wife, I cannot be happy without her."

"We cannot let our daughter go," said the

good Frau, "among people who will look down upon her because she has no wedding portion."

"They shall not look down upon her," protested young Carvel, "they will love her when they know her. I would rather be a peasant and till a garden, with Tessa for my wife, than live in a grand house without her. I have told my father and he will not say us nay," he added triumphantly.

"Tessa can not leave us without her wedding portion," protested Frau Von Abram.

"I do not want a wedding portion. I have enough to make her and you rich, and I must have Tessa," Carvel answered vehemently.

"Nay, her mother has said, and when we get a wedding portion to honor such a wedding then our little Tessa shall be your wife, but not till then," the good Herr said with firmness.

Carvel feeling he could accomplish no more at this time asked, "but Tessa, I may see her?"

"You may see her now, I think," replied the girl's father, "but it will be better to leave the lass and wed among your own kind. She is not the same since you came a-wooing her. It were well for her to forget her rich lover and remember her station and marry among her own kind."

Carvel shuddered but went out into the little garden where he was told he would find Tessa. He started when he saw her. She had changed sorely since that day when he last saw her and told her of his love. "Tessa," he said softly. The girl lifted her face and with a glad cry reached out her hands. Carvel took them and sat down beside her. He told her of his quest and how it had ended, and vowed never to give her up. After some talking Carvel began to take notice of the flowers, for his father made great stress upon collecting all rare ones to be had. Carvel uttered an exclamation of wonder and amazement when his eyes fell upon a bed of tulips of the richest dyes he had ever beheld. "Why, my Tessa," he exclaimed, "we need wait no longer for a wedding portion, for there you have it, a royal dowry."

It was hard for Tessa to understand that her bed of tulips were worth money. The single bulb which Herr Von Abram had found had been well cared for. Tessa having a natural love for, and talent in caring for her flowers, had even saved the seed that had formed, and these with the increase of the bulbs had accumulated, till she had the finest collection of tulips in all Amsterdam.

Carvel brought his father to see the wonderful flowers, and the grand Ludwig Lund was so astonished and pleased that he offered Tessa an enormous sum for half of her collection. Herr Von Abram, seeing a way to make his little girl happy, bade her accept it, which she did. Herr Lund was well pleased with the sweet-faced maiden, and was nothing loth to call her "daughter," which he did, and which brought the crimson dyes again to Tessa's cheek and gave a light to her eyes they had not known for many days.

The news of the wonderful flowers spread over the city and the little garden was thronged with grand visitors. Tessa could have sold all her tulips but Carvel insisted upon her keeping them for she loved them well. On Easter day the great church in Amsterdam was alight with flowers, and Tessa and Carvel had the grandest wedding that old city had known for many days.

THE DATURAS.

THE several species and varieties of daturas, or trumpet flowers, form a class of half hardy perennial plants, many of which are very ornamental. They may be described as strong growing, large leaved plants, attaining a height of two to three feet, having large trumpet shaped single or double flowers about six inches in length, in color mostly white, but occasionally tinted with a delicate blue. The period of bloom extends throughout the summer months but the time of commencement depends entirely upon the manner and situation in which the plants are grown.

The great merits of the daturas as summer blooming plants for the mixed border have been entirely overlooked on account of the straggling and naked appearance which they usually present when grown under unfavorable circumstances. But when given a deep well enriched soil and an opportunity to properly develop I think that the daturas possess many attractions of the highest order, and when grown as single specimens in the mixed border, or in large clumps, or on the borders of shrubbery, they



DATURA WRIGHTII.

produce an excellent effect, and no one ever had a well grown blooming plant that did not receive a good share of the attention and admiration of visitors. The flowers of the single varieties do not remain as long in perfection as those of the double flowering sorts—indeed the flowers of the latter seem to double themselves in almost every style.

To grow the datura to perfection the seed should be sown about the middle of March in a pot or pan filled with light loamy soil; sow thinly, cover slightly, and place in a warm moist situation as close to the glass as possible, and as soon as the young plants are strong enough to handle they should be transferred to three-inch pots and grown on in a moderate temperature until the weather becomes warm and settled, when they can be planted outside. Or the seed can be sown in a cold frame about the middle of April and the young plants placed outside about the middle of May. In this case, however, they will not flower so early. Support should be furnished the plants as soon as they require it, and in the autumn, as soon as their foliage has been destroyed by the frost, the roots should be carefully lifted, placed in boxes of dry sand, and then placed in a dry frost proof cellar for the winter, and early in May planted out for another season's bloom. By treating the roots of the daturas in a manner similar to dahlias they can be wintered over as readily, and will attain greater perfection in size and quan-

tity of bloom. The generic name is an alteration of the Arabic name "tatorah," and the following are the most desirable varieties briefly described:

D. atroviolacea plenissima. This species was introduced by Dr. Weber from Cochin China. It grows about three feet in height. In color the outside of the flower is violet, nearly black, the outside being somewhat lighter.

D. Carthageniensis grows about two feet in height and produces its white, trumpet-shaped flowers in great profusion. It is a native of Grenada.

D. ceratocaula grows about two feet in height. Flowers large, handsome, of a satiny white color and very fragrant. Native of South America.

D. humilis fl. pl. grows about two feet in height. It is a magnificent species, producing in the greatest profusion its deep golden yellow flowers which are very sweet scented and perfectly double.

D. Wrightii (meteloides) grows about two feet in height. This splendid species is a native of Mexico and Texas. The flowers are bell shaped, about eight inches in length, white tinted with lilac, and very sweet scented.

D. fastuosa grows about two feet in height. Of this species we have two varieties, one producing double white and the other double purplish violet flowers which are about seven inches in length. This species is a native of Egypt.

Floral Park, N. Y. CHAS. E. PARNELL.

IN SUMMER DAYS.

From the blinding glare of the city street,
From the dust and noise and the stifling heat
Hie thee away to the country sweet,
In the sultry summer days.

Throw "physic to the dogs," "care to the cat," and cutting all the cords of responsibility, flee from the city when the dog-star rages, as for your life.

Don't say that you cannot afford to. You cannot afford not to. Seven Saratoga trunks and a staff of well trained servants are not absolutely necessary to a thoroughly enjoyable and profitable sojourn by the sea, or a short stay in the mountains; but happy are ye if country kin-folk claim you for your summer vacation. Accept such an invitation as you would remission of sentence or a life reprieve; it may mean both to you.

Cease grappling with knotty problems of church and state for a time, and with a cabbage leaf in your hat cultivate closer acquaintance than the catalogues afford with the sort of knot the newest binders weave as they deftly tie the sheaves in some field of tangled grain. You will be voted a nuisance of course, but if you are so fortunate as to escape being ordered off the place, you will find that the cobwebs in your brain, woven about some old-time sheaves of worry and doubt, have caught the new motion and many a bundle of trouble has been dropped afield, leaving you with clearer brain and vision than before.

Consent to let all political lines become hopelessly entangled in consequence of your not being on the spot to keep them taut; and letting the world, social, political and financial, wag as it will, go tangle a line on forest boughs in a brave endeavor to hook a mountain trout. You will not, probably, catch the trout but you may capture—an appetite.

Remembering the quality of the food and water supply as doubtful, very, in the city's heat,

quench your thirst at some mountain spring which wells up clear as crystal from the limestone rock. Diamonds could not be brighter than the prisms drops which flash their changeable beauty up at you, bright as rainbows in the sunbeams' rays. If you are hungry, here are blackberries to be had for the taking. Lift up that branch heavy with its wealth of fruit, but—no, the way is barred. No flaming sword this, to keep you out of Paradise, but a filmy lace portiere, gemmed with pearls, which but invites you onward; but see! of its own weight it has fallen, this white woven wonder of spider's web and here are—blackberries. Blackberries ripe, cool and luscious; blackberries with the dew on; blackberries with a flavor never found in the fruit before—a different flavor to every berry and the last one always the best—dissolving on your tongue like perfumed syllabubs of snow-flakes.

The delights of country living who can tell! The gallop at breezy morn over the hills to the far-away village "for the mail;" the pleasant loiterings on shaded verandas with book or companion, pen or city news; the idle hours in the swinging hammock under the whispering pines, cicadas sounding their sybillant syllables the while, seeming thereby to accentuate the heat outside, but which comes to your cool retreat in tempered rose-balmed breaths; the afternoon row up the river, under the shade of plummy willows, for water lilies, and the dreamy drifting back again—boat abrim with the beauties—when the sweet world lies in its evening cool and calm and the sun is low in the west.

You feel that you have but begun to live and could thus drift on forever. Here, hampered by no cares, hastened by no responsibilities, you give free sail to thought and go drifting out into dreamland.

Then the bliss of the starry summer nights which bring such brooding quiet to the country side! Sleep? If it were not for the sin of missing all this loveliness, which must be photographed upon memory to make beauty for you amid the city's vastnesses of brick and mortar in the dreary winter, you could outsleep the the noted "Seven." Sleep on the "soft side of a pine board" and at the rate of forty knots an hour; sleep—sleep all the dreamy night and far into the dewy morning; but—treat yourself to a new experience and awake with the dawn. The birds will ring your "rising bell" and the sweetness of their song, tangled in the maze of your dream, will seem like celestial music from the very gates of heaven.

Look! the eastern portals are unbarred and the light is shining through. A level ray falls across the earth and a new joy wakes in your heart, "the joy that cometh in the morning." You never knew before that the earth was so beautiful; artists' tints can not compare with these the dawn has painted in the east. Opal, amethyst and pearl are all commingled there and the first ray of the morning sun lies like a path of glory upon the waking world. Dew drops asparkle, leaves atremble, and a glad light over all. What means this glorious pageant, this grand array, and the whole world asleep!

Flowers sending out a thousand odors of delicious sweetness; breezes bearing the balm of a blessed new life upon their wings; every sound of awaking life mellowed by the dewy distance is music to your ears.

Morning in the country! Could anything this side the pearly gates be fairer?

O 'tis a delicious thing to live
This bright sunshiny weather,
When the heart within and the life without,
Are praising God together.

All the world awake now and unlimbered for action. Can you be idle with all else astir about you? Ah,

Life is the time for work
For doing as well as thinking.

And your thoughts will be all the sweeter if the hands are busy. If you are scientifically inclined make collections of flowers, grasses, leaves or mosses; of butterflies, pebbles or bugs; of anything; any line steadily pursued will open worlds of wonder and delight to you, and studiously followed, will lead you to some discovery worth the pains it cost. If artistic, the country is a boundless treasure house from which, with pencil or kodak, stores of beauty may be drawn with which to enrich portfolio, heart and brain.

Failing these, there is hay to toss in the meadow mowing; errands to be done which lie along the line of your daily drive; or somebody's rose bushes need to be tied up. Why not make the busy housewife a trellis for her beloved clematis and honeysuckle, or give the driven farmer a lift by hoeing out his cabbages, or take the children for a long, long day to the woods for a picnic. With such light labors fill the days, so while gaining much of good to yourself, as your bounding spirits and boyish appetite testify, you may make of your visit a blessed memory, and, who knows, you may be invited back again next summer.

DART FAIRTHORNE.

MY OPINION ABOUT FLOWERS.

IN the May number of Vick's Magazine I see in an article on "Flowers and Dress," by Genie L. and Florence, this sentence, "Why are flowers generally reserved for evening wear?" and it struck me as very odd because I had never supposed they were, for in the city where I live flowers are never "reserved," but grace every occasion, hour, business, pleasure and class. Every street corner has a flower stall. The business man buys a rose each morning for his buttonhole; the shop girl if she can afford the extravagance invests in a bunch of Parma violets once a week; the busy shopper never fails to purchase a large bunch of tulips or lilacs; the lover, if he be thoughtful, sends his lady a box of lilies of the valley every morning; the matinee girl decorates herself with a glowing cluster of carnations, and the little school boy buys his teacher her favorite pansies. Flowers are for sale summer and winter, and everything is offered in season and out, and even the poor newsboy will have a posy.

As for myself I always have a fragrant blossom at my neck if possible. My window garden supplies me in winter and my small yard is a mass of bloom all summer. At work in the house I have a vase of flowers near at hand, and never step outside without plucking fresh ones to wear, whether I be shopping, driving, calling, at the matinee, visiting the hospital, going to the races, in fact wear them at all times except with evening dress, for when one attends large parties or balls flowers invariably wilt before half the evening is over, so *la mode* says jewels are the proper evening decoration, and although I love flowers above all else, I want them fresh and smiling.

PANSY.

SUCCESS WITH FLOWERS.

YOU will see by the accompanying photographs that I am a devotee at the shrine of Flora. From childhood have had a passionate love for flowers; finding much leisure time at my disposal I decided to try floriculture. How many delightful hours have been spent in attending to their wants, but O, how fully they have repaid my attention. What happiness to myself and friends to be able to send the timely bouquet to some member of the "shut-in society;" that bright sweet smelling nosegay of old fashioned flowers for the elderly friend in cap and glasses; that gorgeous bouquet of roses and lilies to the blushing debutante—"her dress like the lilies and her heart as pure as they."

I find the "magic touch," spoken of in connection with successful florists, when put to the test means a love for flowers, a genuine love,

mand the attention of visitors. Strange we so seldom see this vine; it is both showy and rich in appearance, its heart-shaped leaves boldly splashed with creamy white.

I would love to tell you of the aristocrats of my floral kingdom, palms, ferns and begonias—but that is another story.

N. D. F.

Mississippi.

MY FIRST BULBS.

I HAVE been so successful with a package of bulbs received from Mr. Vick last fall, that I owe it to him as well as myself to mention a few of my successes. I was off on a three days' journey when they came, and as the "gude man" brought them home the same day I started he was at a loss to know what to do with them. As a conclusion he seized one of my kitchen aprons, dipped it in water, squeezed

cents apiece, the flowers all being as fine as I ever saw! I confess I expected rather small blossoms.

First the Chinese lilies began the race and they chased each other for a long time; one bulb sent up stems that bore sixteen double flowers, the other three bearing nine single ones. Next the Roman hyacinths each had four stalks of the sweetest scented snowy blossoms. Their perfume carried me back to my mother's garden, plentifully supplied with grass pinks; then the red, white and purple hyacinths; the purple was so fine and rare around here that everyone asked me what that was in with my hyacinths; it had a dark rich purple stripe in the center and outside, between the two a white tinted with a clear blue; after remaining on the stem three weeks I put it in water, thus keeping it a week longer. Then the daffodils awoke, the



A MISSISSIPPI HOME. EAST END OF VERANDAH, WITH PLANTS.

not the feeling that prompts the exclamation, upon sight of your neighbor's thrifty plants, "Oh how lovely," "I do adore flowers!" "Yes, thank you, I will take cuttings of each kind, will try and have them like yours." Ask in a short time how the "cuttings" are progressing, see the blank look. "Cuttings? Oh, yes, those lovely ones you gave me; I did prize them, but when I reached home I was so fatigued, and next day I had company. I meant to put them in wet sand with a bit of rich earth as you directed, but forgot them a day or two, so they were wilted and would never look fresh again, it is just my luck!" That is love for flowers! Oh spirit of Flora, protect your innocent children from such lovers!

My plants with white markings on their leaves are greatly admired. I have a superb vine of "Pothos aurea" which is one of the first to com-

it a little, wrapped it around the bundle, keeping it wet until my return. As there was a packet of flower seeds inside, that might have been dangerous, it being very warm. Some of the bulbs sent forth tender shoots, but there was such an uncertain, puzzled expression upon his face I couldn't find it in my heart to hint at any objections; however, "all's well that ends well."

As some of you will remember fifty-six bulbs were offered for \$1.50. On looking over the list I found it contained nothing but what I wanted for my window garden, but was advised not to send for it by those who had tried collections from other places. I said I'm not afraid to try this offer; as far as I know, Vick has never sent out worthless plants or bulbs, so I'll venture, and what a lucky venture! They began blooming before Christmas and bloomed all winter. Just think of it, for less than three

first stalk giving me eleven flowers. One yellow and one red tulip came as my valentines the 14th of February, the yellow one being very fragrant. The crocuses had to hustle to get out in February, one made it though; they were very much admired, and with good cause too. A pale blue one with glorious purple stripes was a favorite with everyone. My Easter lily grew twenty-nine inches high and had four snowy lilies early enough for the earliest Easter decoration. I tried not to be stingy with them all, as pleasures grow by being shared, consequently many have resolved to go and do likewise—that is, to plant bulbs next winter.

As for myself, these are the first I ever tried or saw tried outside of a hothouse. I potted them according to directions and, after I had them well rooted, all I did was to water plentifully with warm water, keeping them near

to 70° in a living room. I placed a thermometer among them to watch the temperature and covered the plants plentifully with paper at night; one night the fire died out, and as the thermometer indicated 19° below zero everything froze pretty hard. I couldn't push my finger into the soil. I put the plants into a box, covered it over, keeping them in the dark until all the frost was drawn out. I thought the bloom would all be done up, but nothing seemed to be hurt. I used leafmold, garden soil, sand and powdered charcoal, and truly I did not stir the soil but once the whole winter; it kept so loose and seemed just right.

Ashmore, Ill.

MRS. R. A. WILSON.

occasionally removed by means of a small sponge attached to a stick. A circular sheet of glass raised a quarter of an inch from edge of bell, by means of leaden clips, prevents the dust from entering, without excluding the air entirely. The fish are fed several times a week with small shreds of cooked meat, and frequently evince their knowledge of dinner time by their restlessness when the cloth is laid. The water is generally beautifully bright and clear, but now and then epidemics of animalcular life invade its purity, and form at once food for the fishes and splendid material for microscopic investigation. To sum up, my experience in this direction teaches me that any arrangements for water cir-

with earliest remembrances. There are beautiful wild plants and shrubs in every State. Here, in the South, we perhaps have a greater variety than could be obtained in latitudes further north. Our native azaleas are very showy and produce flowers of uncommon beauty. Of these shrubs there are four varieties all growing wild here. The *Calycanthus floridus* of the floral catalogues, is a Southern deciduous shrub. In May it produces a profusion of double brownish-purple flowers which have a strong and most delicious pine apple fragrance. The flowers are great favorites for buttonhole bouquets. The "sour wood," or tree andromeda, grows wild here too. It is a beautiful shrub



A MISSISSIPPI HOME. WEST END OF VERANDAH, WITH PLANTS.

TREATMENT OF GOLD FISH.

IT may interest many of your readers to know that so far from running water, or even frequent change being necessary, the fish will thrive without practically any change of water at all. I have had two fish in an inverted bell glass of about fourteen inch diameter for some years, and my motto is to leave the water severely alone, the only change being made annually, when the spring cleaning involves temporary shifting. Once the water was not changed for five years, though, of course, in so long a period the loss by evaporation had occasionally to be made up. The glass stands on a sideboard away from the light; a couple of inches of clean sand and well washed gravel occupy the bottom, and in this is inserted a few projecting branches of coral, bearing a large oyster or clam shell. Occasionally a few pieces of the common water weeds, including water cress, are planted, but these usually are gradually nibbled away by the fish. Owing to the absence of strong light, the confervoid growth on the glass is small, and is

culcation or frequent changes are simply trouble thrown away, the latter especially doing more harm than good by disturbing and frightening the fish to their frequent damage.—CHAS. T. DRURY, in *The Gardeners' Chronicle*.

NATIVE PLANTS.

AMONG all the exotics brought from every known land there are none which rival in beauty of leaf and bloom many of the native shrubs and trees of various parts of the United States. A collection of native plants is an interesting addition to any garden, and those who plant them plan better than they realize, for after they have enjoyed them a lifetime and have passed away, the shrubs will still remain in all their freshness and vigour to add to the enjoyment of other generations. It seems to me that there is something patriotic in planting our own native shrubs. Then again, when a person removes from one section of the States to another, it is a great pleasure to still be surrounded with some of the flowers associated

and bears great panicles of lovely drooping, bell-shaped, white flowers, resembling those of the lily of the valley. In early June the white fringe, or "gray beard," bursts forth into a perfect sheet of pure white fringe-like flowers which rival in delicate beauty those of any cultivated plant that I have ever seen. Few evergreens are so beautiful as our mountain laurel, which produces its wax-like flowers from May to July.

Different varieties of wild clematis and jessamine are abundant here, and the "trumpet creeper," or *Bignonia radicans*, can be seen on every roadside; in fact "there is beauty all around us." I suppose the same could be said of every section of our country, and I hope other writers for this Magazine will sometimes tell us of the native plants found in their respective States.

PRUDENCE PLAIN.

Winnsboro, S. C.

There are eight olive trees in the Garden of Olives at Jerusalem which are said to be at least eight hundred years old.

THE WREATH.

Weave a wreath of varied hues,
Here are garlands twining;
For the gay, the brightest choose,
And drooping, for the pining.
"London Pride" for west end beaux
Or belles, as fancy ranges;
Heart'sease, too, in plenty grows
To meet Dame Fortune's changes.

With the heiress—"Mary-gold,"
For men who wish to marry;
"Bachelor's Buttons" now unfold,
For those who ever tarry;
"Love-lies-bleeding" for the flirt
Its lonely bloom discloses;
Maidens, pray your frowns avert,
Prudes shall wear "Primroses."

In this wreath, for city men
The "stock" its blossoms raises;
Pinks for would-be dandies, then
The simple lack-a-"Daisies,"
Deep "blue bells" for belles who read,
"Jonquils" for the scribblers;
"Laurel" crowns the victor's meed,
And "violets" the fiddler's.

"Passion Flowers" for lovers vows
When they dare confess them;
Roses sweet, for beauty's brows,
My prayer is, heaven bless them.
Lady, may thy pathway be,
Through life, with flowers blended,
"Forget-me-not," I ask of thee—
With this my wreath is ended.

—From an old English work.

CAPE JASMINE.

SOUTHERN cultivators of flowers often wonder at the want of prominence given this beautiful evergreen flowering shrub in Northern floral catalogues. Doubtless it never does so well off its "native heath" as it is pre-eminently of Southern growth. Here it is hardy along the Gulf Coast and as high up as the freezing point, beyond that it may be called a tender evergreen shrub that lives out of doors and thrives under judicious culture to the at-

tainment of magnificent specimen plants, or in long rows and hedges, blooming with the greatest freedom. The blooms are large, pure white, deliciously perfumed, camellia-like and perfect in shape and outline, double to the center. While it develops under Southern skies in such grand perfection, yet at the North a proportionate degree of success in cultivating it would amply repay the cultivator. All flowers more or less submit to artificial conditions of culture; from every quarter of the globe endless varieties are exchanged by countries differing widely in climatic conditions. The cape jasmine is not an exception to the rule, but if given proper care at the North would make a superb house plant. Half hardy it would be among hothouse plants, as it is of hard wood growth with foliage of firm evergreen texture. It can be purchased

in pots from dealers, but in Southern sections one plant is not thought to be even a beginning. From one good plant we root cuttings by the dozen, and in hedges and groups and large plants, almost tree-like in size, have them all through the yards and gardens. No yard has a good start for flowering shrubs without a cape jasmine, and none are doing well unless the number multiplies and increases in size as the years go by.

The process of rooting from cuttings is simple and may be adopted North as well as South. Take small twigs or stout cuttings from the plants, or withered and rejected flowers from bouquets and vases, and insert the stems in wide mouthed bottles or jars of clear glass, so the roots can be seen when they form and one may know when they are ready to transplant. In putting them into water place some crumpled paper or cotton batting around the tops at the mouth of the jar or bottle to prevent them slipping down into the water. In ten days or thereabout fine white roots will put out and the cuttings are then ready to plant in wet sand mixed with fine well rotted leafmold. Let them be well watered when planted and kept wet through the summer. When they have grown for six weeks or two months in this pot of wet sandy soil shift them to one with richer soil and less sand, keep well watered and let them grow until time to remove them to the hothouse, in the North. Water freely all winter. If the soil is not allowed to pack, and the jar is kept well drained, the cape jasmine likes as much water as the calla lily. Liquid fertilizers in moderate degree are beneficial, though the plant is not a gross feeder. The water in which the cuttings are rooted ought to be rendered soft by a little soda, or still better is it to use rain water. When spring comes either reset in larger pots with rich soil or water the ones they have been in all winter with liquid manure. Both as a standard outdoor shrub in the South, and as a pot plant in the North, the buds form in the fall and develop in May and June in the South and about February or March in the North in the conservatory.

Plants bloom the second year from cuttings, but it is not advisable to allow more than two or three blooms on such young plants. The first blooms are generally as large and handsome as on older plants. Here we put our young plants in nice mellow ground in any position in yard or garden, but on account of the beauty of the plant it is generally a conspicuous point selected for its growth, as well as places near the door on account of its intoxicating fragrance. Through the open doors and windows these plants permeate an entire house—hall, dining room and parlor—with their sweetness.

Throw away all young plants that have yellowish leaves and are otherwise weakly. Only the plants that are thrifty from the start are worth cultivating. One difference in the culture of open air standard plants and those for the conservatory is the amount of water given during the growing season. Plants out doors need just enough to keep them from suffering from the effects of drought, as the wood ought to grow and harden evenly to stand the cold of winter. Too much water, particularly late in the season, is apt to induce a succulent second growth that would winter-kill under very slight freezing. But when intended for the hothouse watering even with liquid manure and forcing a luxuriant growth is advisable, as the artificial

and stimulating mode of culture will make fine plants full of buds.

To be seen in all its glory it must be in the Southern home of this exquisite flower. Here we cut short-stemmed blooms for bouquets and long branches, from a foot to a yard in length with many blooms on each, for decoration. It furnishes its own green, as the foliage is quite as handsome as that of the orange, and grows closely around the blooms.

What people here would do for their decorations on May Day, when the May Queen is crowned and her throne made of flowers, or on high church days, or for weddings, it is hard to say, without the ever beautiful cape jasmines. And for more sacred purposes it is held dear. It is the last offering of love laid tenderly upon many a pulseless heart. And as silent watches over the quiet resting places of the loved and lost nothing is so beautiful as this fine evergreen, with its fresh and shining foliage, relieving the dull aspect of winter and awaking in spring and summer with its pure white, fragrant, camellia-like flowers. G. T. D.

Lexington, Miss.

Attention

In time to any irregularity of the Stomach, Liver, or Bowels may



prevent serious consequences. Indigestion, headache, nausea, biliousness, and vertigo indicate certain functional derangements, the best remedy for which is Ayer's

Pills.* Purely vegetable, sugar-coated, easy to take and quick to assimilate, this is the ideal family medicine—the most popular, safe, and useful aperient in pharmacy. Mrs. M. A. BROCKWELL, Harris, Tenn., says:

"Ayer's Cathartic Pills cured me of sick headache and my husband of neuralgia. We think there is

No Better Medicine,

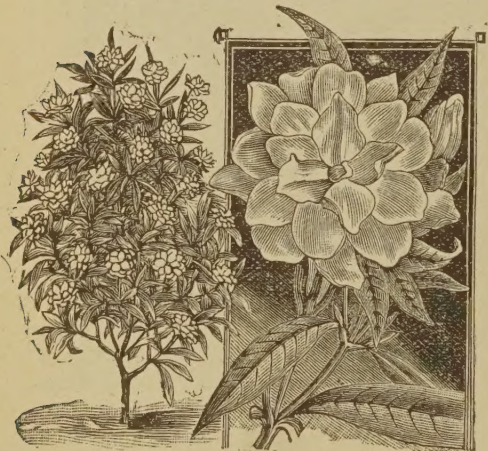
and have induced many to use it."

"Thirty-five years ago this Spring, I was run down by hard work and a succession of colds, which made me so feeble that it was an effort for me to walk. I consulted the doctors, but kept sinking lower until I had given up all hope of ever being better. Happening to be in a store, one day, where medicines were sold, the proprietor noticed my weak and sickly appearance, and after a few questions as to my health, recommended me to try Ayer's Pills. I had little faith in these or any other medicine, but concluded, at last, to take his advice and try a box. Before I had used them all, I was very much better, and two boxes cured me. I am now 80 years old; but I believe that if it had not been for Ayer's Pills, I should have been in my grave long ago. I buy 6 boxes every year, which make 210 boxes up to this time, and I would no more be without them than without bread."—H. H. Ingraham, Rockland, Me.

AYER'S PILLS

Prepared by Dr. J. C. Ayer & Co., Lowell, Mass.

Every Dose Effective



Letter Box.

In this department we will be pleased to answer any questions relating to Flowers, Vegetables and Plants, or to publish the experiences of our readers. JAMES VICK.

Star of Bethlehem.

Will some one tell me what to do with my Star of Bethlehem this summer? It did not blossom last winter. Will it do to put it in the border this summer and repot in the fall, or are they worthless after being forced?

MRS. S. A. M.

Maple Ridge, Mich.

The treatment mentioned can be followed and it is possible the bulbs will bloom next winter. At least it will do no harm to try.

Hydrangea Flowers.

Can you tell me what will change hydrangeas to the different colors? By so doing you will greatly oblige a fond subscriber to your floral magazine.

Macon, Ga.

J. J. R.

It is said that iron filings mixed with the soil will change the color of the flowers of Hydrangea Hortensia. Probably what would be better would be a solution of copperas or sulphate of iron. The copperas can be used at the rate of one or one and a half per cent., giving several waterings four or five days apart.

Raising Celery.

I would like to have some one tell me how to raise celery. I can raise nice young plants but do not know how to bring them to their complete growth, nor how to keep the celery through the winter. I saw in your last Magazine that it was kept till March. I would very much like to know how to raise it and when to set it out.

MRS. G. W. S.

Montezuma, Iowa.

Will not some one who raises celery successfully write out in detail his method of cultivation for the benefit of the inquirer and others who wish to know how to grow this excellent vegetable?

Water Hyacinth—Church Decoration.

How can I prevent a green slime forming in the water and around the roots of my water hyacinth, or won't it hurt it? It is growing nicely but the slime looks filthy.

I have a good many flowers and many are used for church decoration on special occasions. No doubt many others use theirs for the same purpose. Could not some of the sisters describe their decorations? Last year part of our decoration for Childrens' Day consisted of a ten-foot table placed between the platform and altar railing and slightly raised at the back. This was covered with moss and sawdust walks were laid out. Flower beds were made with dishes of water sunk in the moss. A potted fern was the center of a rockery. A pretty bird's house with grandpapa and grandmamma seated in front completed a picture of an ideal country home.

If the editor allows I will describe other arrangements some other time.

P. L.

Pine Grove, Pa.

The water can be poured off from the water hyacinth and be replaced with some that is fresh. There is no necessity of retaining the same water all the time.

Short and clear descriptions of floral decorations are in order.

Kerosene Emulsion and Black Louse.

Seeing that you answered questions through your Magazine I would like to know the best known remedy for killing a small black bug or louse which destroys potatoes, tomatoes and many other garden vegetables?

S. L. F.

Monongahela, Pa.

Use kerosene emulsion.

The following formulas for making the emulsion were published in our last volume but will be serviceable again at this time.

KEROSENE EMULSION.—This valuable material for the destruction of insects is variously formed; a good way is as follows: Take hard soap (whale-oil soap

is best, but a good quality of brown soap will do,) a quarter pound, dissolve it in two quarts of hot water, and then add one pint of kerosene oil. Stir the fluid rapidly for a considerable time until there is a thorough mixture of the parts, and then add five quarts of water. For the green fly on roses and other plants, and for all kinds of aphides and scale insects, it is a certain insecticide. Apply with a sprayer, a garden syringe, or a small whisk broom. The syringe is the best instrument for the purpose.

EMULSION PREPARED WITH MILK.—Take sour milk one part and kerosene two parts, warm to a blood heat and stir well to mix thoroughly, then dilute with ten times as much water.

Green Fly.

Will you please tell how to get rid of a little green bug on house plants? I have tried a great many things but all fail to get rid of them.

Hillside, Colo.

MRS. M. E. H.

This is the most common insect infesting plants and one which is easily destroyed, though it is necessary to watch it as it increases so rapidly that it would do much damage if left to itself for a short time. The plant grower finds it necessary to be constantly prepared for its destruction. In greenhouses it is kept under by fumigating with tobacco about once a week—maintaining a smoke which fills the house for an hour or more. This work is usually done in the evening; the next morning the plants are syringed with clear water. More recently another practice has been employed that of laying tobacco stems about the floor of the house and keeping them moist. Where this can be practiced it prevents the increase of the insects. Weak tobacco water syringed on infested plants will rid them of the insects. With house plants we know of nothing involving less trouble than the use of sulpho-tobacco soap, dissolving it in water and putting it on with a syringe. There are always some unhatched eggs which escape, and thus the brood of insects is again established, making constant watchfulness and fighting necessary.

Sweet Peas—Nitrate of Soda.

I have four parallel rows of sweet peas in one bed about eight inches apart. Can you suggest methods to support them in this shape?

What is nitrate of soda, its essential properties and its value as fertilizer, cost and place to buy it? Does common "washing soda" have any of the properties and effects of nitrate of soda if solution of same was applied to pea vines? Please advise in Vick's Magazine.

D. W.

Lawyersville, N. Y.

Woven wire screen-work of large mesh and about three feet in width, such as now kept by nearly all hardware dealers, will make a good support for the sweet peas—one stretch at the back of each row. Each piece should be as long as the row and it can be fastened to a stake at each end and one or more in the middle, according to the length of the row. This will make a cheap, durable and good support.

It is the nitrogen in the nitrate of soda which is the valuable fertilizing property. Common carbonate of soda is of no particular value as a fertilizer. As a rule nitrogenous manures are not applied directly to crops of peas, beans, clover or any other plants belonging to the pea or pulse family, as these plants are nitrogen collectors. A pamphlet called "Food for Plants" gives a large amount of information about nitrate of soda, its value as a fertilizer, method of using, etc. We can send this pamphlet prepaid by mail for 10 cents. Some seedsmen and nearly all dealers in fertilizers can supply nitrate of soda.

The suggestions made above about support for sweet peas will probably be too late to be

available this season. The letter containing the inquiries reached us the first of June, at which time the June number was being mailed. If D. W. had signed his name we should have written him at once, as we frequently answer questions privately when a public answer would be too late to be of use. It is a mistake not to sign the full name to all communications.

Tender Roses.

Will the Duchess de Brabant rose live out doors in winter if tied up with straw, or would it have to be taken up and kept in the cellar? If kept in cellar, how ought it to be kept, dry or in soil and watered some?

Can tender roses kept in pots in summer be set in the cellar in the winter and be kept right in the pots? What kind of soil is best to pot roses in?

I have not had very good luck with roses, especially in winter, as we have no good place to keep them, and they die during winter. But I didn't know but they would keep in the cellar if I knew how to treat them there. Would the Marechal Niel keep in the cellar and bloom in summer? I would rather set them all in the ground and put them in the cellar in winter if I can keep them there all right, for I can't keep them in the house in winter and have them do anything.

G. S. C.

Bennettsburg, N. Y.

In this climate it is somewhat difficult to keep tender roses out of doors during winter. But it can be done. The fact is we are about three hundred miles too far north to raise Tea and Noisette roses and be careless about them. A bed of Tea, Bourbon and Noisettes, planted here about ten years ago has been maintained to the present time. Some springs a plant or two would be found dead but their places have been promptly supplied with others and thus the number kept full. Quite a number of the original plants have held through. They have been carefully covered with dried leaves each season at the commencement of steady cold weather. A still surer way to protect them would be to peg the shoots down to the ground and cover them with sods turned grass side downwards and then place a layer a foot deep of dry leaves over all and lay brush or evergreen boughs on to keep them from blowing away. The plants when well hardened and ripened in the fall may be taken up and heeled in in soil in a frost proof cellar and be thus kept until spring and then be planted out. Of course less bloom should be expected from such plants. The plants can also be kept in pots the year round, repotting them in spring and pruning them back when starting them to grow. In this climate the Marechal Neil must be considered a greenhouse variety and it cannot be recommended for culture otherwise.

Worth a Guinea a Box.

Stubborn tendencies
to digestive troubles
in children will always
yield to a mild dose
of

Beecham's Pills

(Tasteless)

25 cents a box.

Jack-me-not.

How can a "Jack-me-not" several years old be started fresh again, and when ought it to be started, fall or spring? D. M. L.

Frankfort, Ind.

If jack-me-not means the rose General Jacqueminot then the plant can be cut back within six inches of the ground in spring.

Mildew on Roses.

What is good for mildew on roses? I have tried everything and have found nothing that will stop it. Arlington, Md. E. L. B.

Sulphide of potassium, or liver of sulphur, is a certain destroyer of the mildew of roses. Dissolve a quarter of an ounce in a gallon of water and spray or syringe the plants with the mixture. If done at evening, the next morning syringe the plants again, this time with clear water.

Geraniums.

I would like to ask a few questions which you can answer through the Magazine. I have a round leaf geranium, the flowers are crimson in color but they do not expand but bud up good; now why do they not open?

Can I pinch back my rose geranium? Will it grow bushy by pinching it back? L. A. P.

Crawford, Mich.

Give the geranium some liquid manure and it will probably open its flowers.

Yes, pinch back the plant and it will throw out a number of new shoots from dormant buds.

Burgundy Rose.

Have you the old Burgundy rose of long ago? It is very hardy, dwarf, small foliage, bright pink or rose color; the roses were the size of the old shilling pieces of forty years ago, about the size of twenty-five cents. Will you publish this in your esteemed Magazine, for among the numerous readers of the Magazine they may be able to supply the plant. I have taken Vick's Magazine from the first volume to the last of the first series. I have thirteen volumes bound and they are held in much esteem.

Voltus, Pa.

MRS. A. C. S.

We do not know where the Burgundy rose is now cultivated. Other inquiries have been made for it this spring. Perhaps some of our readers have it.

Perennial Plants and Bulbs.

Will you kindly give in the Magazine a list of hardy perennial plants and bulbs that will give a succession of bloom from early spring until late autumn?

Also tell when and how to sow perennial phlox seed. C. R.

Carpenter, Pa.

Seeds of perennial phlox to germinate well require to be sown as soon as ripe. The only safe way is to collect the seed and sow it at once.

To give a list of the valuable herbaceous perennial plants would be an undertaking too great for the small space we have at command. Besides, tastes are so different it would be difficult to get even a few persons to agree on the same list. There are no plants which can give greater interest to the garden than the hardy herbaceous and bulbous ones, and we cannot too earnestly advise their culture.

Protecting Roses.

Please inform me in your Magazine how to protect Hybrid Perpetual roses. Mine winter kill very badly, and I have lost Vick's Caprice and four others.

New Milford, Pa.

MRS. S. W. S.

The means of protecting roses during winter must be adapted to the necessities of the plants according to localities. Here the Hybrid Perpetuals are left nearly always without protection except what they get from the buildings, shrubs and trees near them. In some cases they are bound up with straw, the wrapping being placed on them when winter has fully set in and kept

on until about the first of April. A protection of soil is sometimes given by building a mound of earth up about eighteen inches in height around the plant, thus securing at least all the lower part of the bush; if the upper part is injured it does not matter so much, for it is pruned away. Another way practiced in severe climates is to bend the shoots down to the ground holding them there by little wooden pegs made from tree branches, or by throwing pieces of sod on the tips of the shoots; after this the plants are covered at least a foot in depth with dried leaves. When plenty of evergreen branches can be had these form a very excellent covering.

Otaheite Orange—Cannas—Jonquils.

Will you please tell me whether cannas in pots need much water and sunlight?

Does the Otaheite orange need much water, and what is the best treatment for it?

What will prevent the buds of jonquils from blasting every year, or in what situation and with what treatment are they most likely to blossom? M. C.

Philadelphia, N. Y.

Cannas in pots need a plentiful supply of water and a full exposure to the sun.

The Otaheite orange should be potted in good substantial soil, and every season before starting it into growth the upper or surface soil should be renewed with good fresh soil. The plant should have good drainage, for if water is left stagnant at the roots it will show it by yellow leaves and stoppage of growth. With good drainage a free supply of water can be given all through the warm season. Syringing the foliage should also be practiced every morning from spring to fall. In autumn there will be a tendency for the plant to rest, and the water should be partially withdrawn but not wholly; the resting season will be from October to February. Keep the plants free from insects, which are apt to infest it if neglected.

If the question in regard to jonquils is asked in reference to some bulbs which have long been in the garden and whose vitality is impaired, we would advise that they be dug up and destroyed. In the case of strong young bulbs we do not think there would be any such result as the inquirer describes.

A Letter from Georgia.

I have just finished reading Vick's Magazine for March and its perusal has intensified my wish to become the possessor of a flower garden. Heretofore my efforts at floriculture have been limited to a few climbers and pot plants, mostly geraniums. I am especially desirous of collecting roses, chrysanthemums and other outdoor plants, but as that demolisher of flowers, the calf, is permitted to roam at sweet will over the premises I cannot hope, for the present at least, to realize my wish.

Do any of the readers know anything of the marble vine? I do not know its botanical name. I consider it one of the most desirable of annual climbers. It is a rapid grower and as it throws out numerous branches affords an excellent shade. The foliage is a dark green with a delicate veining of white, giving the plant its name. In the fall the seed pods, or rather berries, ripen into a bright red and form a pleasing contrast to the foliage. The only objection to this beautiful climber is its slow germination. It need not be expected up for at least five weeks after planting, but when it once starts it is, as I have said, a rapid climber.

Late in the season last year, through the kindness of a friend, I became the delighted owner of a water hyacinth. I had only been in possession of my treasure a few weeks when the approach of cold weather made its consignment to the cellar necessary. I put away my precious plant with many anticipations of future development, but like many other fond hopes they were doomed to disappointment, for when the weather became sufficiently mild to warrant its removal from winter quarters I found it dead. I would like to know how they can be kept through the winter.

Soon our Southern woods will be glorious with honeysuckle, dogwood, white ash, laurel and other lovely wild flowers. By the way, the white ash is worthy of a place in any garden. An early and profuse bloomer, the delicate and graceful flowers make it "a thing of beauty." The one in my neighbor's garden over the way when in its full glory of bloom excites in my bosom an admiration not unmixed with envy.

La Fayette, Ga.

SOUTHRON.

Ants Injuring Plants.

Will you kindly tell me through the "Letter Box" how to rid my snowball bush of black ants? It is completely infested, and I think they are killing the bush. We have tried showering with warm water, hellebore, and know of nothing else to use. There are other bushes in our neighbors' yards which are never troubled in this way.

E. A. L.

Lynn, Mass.

Please inform me through the "Letter Box" how to get rid of ants in my flower beds. Last year they killed my petunias and pansies. Mrs. E. M. D.

Milwaukee, Wis.

In answer to inquiries last year about killing ants a number of methods were given by correspondents, and the simplest and apparently the most efficient one was that published in this Magazine in March, 1892, page 75. In consisted merely in blowing Persian insect powder into the holes of the ants. When the insects are on a plant it would be best to attack them directly with the powder, as well as to find their holes and drive it into the runway.

"I speak not out of weak surmises,
but from proof."

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Philadelphia, San Francisco, etc.

Carnations—Chrysanthemums.

What care do carnations require during the summer in order to have them blossom through the winter?

What care do chrysanthemums require?

Manchester, N. Y.

Mrs. G. A. S.

Young plants of perpetual or winter blooming carnations can be planted out in good soil in the garden and remain there until danger of heavy frosts. When the shoots show a disposition to bloom during summer nip or cut out the flower buds. After the middle of August the buds may be allowed to form. In September the plants can be taken up and potted in good soil and be removed to the house, keeping them in a cool temperature. Supply them with water as needed, and expose to the full light, and give air freely.

It is not easy in a small space to give in detail the care of chrysanthemums during summer; but the main point is to secure a strong growth, whether they are kept in pots or are in the open ground. Of course there will be a tendency to form buds, but these must be removed until the last of July. In August or September plants which have been in the open can be potted and cared for in the house. They will require plenty of water and when the roots have filled the pots some manure water twice a week will be found of great benefit.

Bouvardias—Begonias.

How shall I manage bouvardias to get best possible results? Will they, by being carefully kept from year to year, grow to be handsome shrubs?

What is the treatment of winter blooming begonias?

Aurora, Ill.

S. R. L.

In regard to bouvardias the following instructions are taken from the "Flower and Vegetable Garden:

Plants struck from cuttings early in spring, after being grown in small pots until they are vigorous little specimens, may be hardened off, and then planted out in rich soil in the open ground, and remain during summer to make their growth. Early in autumn the plants should be lifted and potted, and set in the shade, watered, and the foliage syringed. They can be kept for a time in a cold frame or be taken directly to the house. In either case they should have a moist atmosphere, a good light, and a heat from 50° to 65°. After the blooming season is past the plants can be set aside where moderately cool, and receive but little water. By the middle of spring repot them in good fresh soil; this should be, if possible, decayed sods with half as much sand and old manure in equal parts. The tops can now be cut back, and the plants given a warm place where they will start into new growth. When the weather has become settled plunge the pots in the open border and leave them until autumn, giving necessary attention to water. Like most other plants, this has its insect enemies, and the cultivator must employ his skill and the proper remedies for the destruction of green fly, red spider and mealy bug.

As to begonias, they are of the easiest culture, requiring only to be given water as needed and they are among the most satisfactory of greenhouse and window plants. They need more heat than geraniums and some other window plants and therefore should be placed on a shelf or bracket half way up or near the top of the window if the necessary heat, 70° or 75° in the daytime, cannot otherwise be secured.

Cyperus—Cactus—Ice Plant.

Will you kindly spare me a little space in the next number of your Magazine to tell me a few facts about the Cyperus alternifolius, or umbrella plant. I have it in an aquarium with nothing but water in it, but it don't seem to do much good; perhaps I should have loam or sand in the bottom. Does it do best in the shade or should it sometimes have sun? Should it be kept exclusively in the house and can it be kept all winter?

Will you kindly tell me the correct treatment of cactuses? I have some old ones which have buds

very early in the spring but they never open but dry up and fall off. What may the cause be?

Can the Mesembryanthemum, or ice plant, be kept through the winter and will it seed in the house? I can never get them so far through the summer as to seed.

L. M. S.

Pittsburg, Pa.

Cyperus alternifolius will thrive kept in water with a little sand for the roots to run in and will live winter and summer. It does best well exposed to the sun.

Most kinds of cactus need plenty of heat and but a limited supply of water—an excess of water or too low a temperature might cause the buds to drop. Daily-spraying of the plants, and supplying water to the soil very carefully, or only so as to maintain a gentle moisture, will be found to agree with them.

The ice plant is an annual and its time of life is closed when it has bloomed and formed its seeds. Start the plants early in order to get it to seed. Seedsmen do not raise the seeds in this country as they can be procured in Europe much cheaper than they can be raised here.

Kerosene Emulsion—Rooting Cuttings.

Will you please advise me through the Magazine if the kerosene emulsion will be injurious to the foliage of the calceolaria and cineraria if used to kill the green fly? Am told it will, and have several fine young plants coming on which I wish to keep if possible.

Some time ago G. F. M. gave some instructions on rooting carnations, etc., and wished to know what success was met with by those who followed them. I have at present time seven roses, same number carnations, several other varieties, including double petunias, abutilons, heliotrope and others, all rooted since his instructions were given, besides others now rooting, these are being bedded out for my winter supply of bloom. Perhaps G. F. M. will be somewhat surprised when he learns they were all rooted without bottom heat, in sand. I am well pleased with my success, and here again wish to thank G. F. M. for his instructions.

Milton, Ont.

As to kerosene emulsion, whether a mixture of a given strength will hurt certain plants can be known only by a test of some kind. A proper way is to break off a small piece of plant of the kind to be operated on and dip it in the mixture and lay it aside. If after half an hour there is no appearance of injury it may be considered safe to apply the mixture in spray form. The new, tender growth of a plant will sometimes be injured by solutions and extracts which will be harmless to older foliage. We find that

people often have trouble in making the calculations for the quantities of materials to be used in the preparation of kerosene emulsion from the formulas given in proportional quantities. To obviate this difficulty the following formula is given which has had numerous trials:

RECIPE.—Take two ounces hard soap and dissolve it in one quart hot water; add to it one-half pint kerosene; shake the mixture violently for some time or until there is a thorough blending of the parts; then add three quarts more of water and stir all briskly. This will make a gallon of insecticide.

Nearly all the soft-wooded greenhouse plants can be raised in July and August from cuttings put in in the garden, and without protection, unless it may be light shading during the hottest hours of the day for a few days. The warmth of the soil is sufficient and serves the same purpose as bottom heat in the greenhouse in the colder months. Many kinds of flowering shrubs can be raised in the same way.

Perennials—Geraniums.

I should like to tell my experience with some flowers last year and receive instructions on some points not quite clear. My Marguerite carnations were a perfect success, but I did not succeed in wintering any out of doors, and though I left out fifty young strong daisies and Canterbury bells, all died. The ground here is dry and the winds cold and strong. Would you advise wintering perennials and biennials in cool dry cellar, frost proof? Part of my godetias were double and I lifted one, a deep pink, and it has bloomed constantly and profusely seven months in the house, but it has changed to be entirely single. My geraniums, though rooted last May in good soil and kept in sunny window at about 65° temperature, have failed to bloom entirely, which was a great disappointment. The stalks are small but strong and healthy and are budding freely now. Would you advise repotting and keeping till next fall and try them again, or try new ones? They are good varieties and I shall keep off all buds till September. The Magazine is just lovely.

Mrs. T. H. D.

Fort Collins, Colo.

Evidently Fort Collins is a very hard climate for plants in winter. We should endeavor to protect perennial plants under the circumstances described by covering with leaves. A piece of board set edgewise along each side of a bed will form an inclosure which can be filled with fallen leaves in autumn, and some pieces of board or some slats loosely nailed over the top will keep the leaves in place. This would probably be sufficient protection.

More flowers may be expected from the old plants treated as proposed than from young ones.

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VARIEGATED HOPS.—Out of the package of seed of Variegated Hop I have five splendid plants growing. The seeds were sown outdoors just before a long cold rain and I was afraid they would rot in the ground, and this may account for so few plants. The plants are quite small yet, having only from four to six leaves on each, but the leaves are spotted with white, and I'm looking forward with a great deal of pleasure to the time when the old trunk of the tree near where they are growing will be covered by this beautiful vine. I. S.

Wyoming Co., N. Y.

NITRATE OF SODA.

In answer to several inquiries we will say that we can send on receipt of ten cents a pamphlet containing very full information in regard to nitrate of soda and instructions how to use it on different crops.

NEW YORK FAIR.

The fair of the New York State Agricultural Society will be held at Syracuse commencing September 14th and continuing to the 21st. A large Poultry Building and Horticultural Hall are now being constructed and will be ready for use at the coming fair. There will also be many additions and improvements made on the present buildings so that the New York State Fair will offer greater facilities to exhibitors than ever before.

Entries of cattle, horses, sheep and swine must be made by the 16th of August. Entries of poultry and farm produce close September 9th; art, fancy work and domestic manufactures, September 12; implements and machines, and flowers and fruits, September 14.

THE STANDARD DICTIONARY.

The publishers of this great work announce that it is now rapidly nearing completion, and it is expected to be issued about the close of the year. It has been several years in preparation and before it is completed will have cost over a half million of dollars. The vocabulary is of extraordinary richness. It is especially rich in scientific and technical terms demanded by the progress of science and the arts. Over two hundred specialists have been engaged on the work, investigating every department of knowledge and thus making it universally reliable.

After the exclusion of all scientific and technical terms that can be safely spared from a work of this kind, a comparison with other dictionaries will show how complete is the vocabulary of the Standard. The following is an actual count of the words and phrases recorded under the letter "A":

Stormouth	4,692
Worcester	6,983
Webster (International)	8,358
The Century	15,621
The Standard	19,736

Approval of the methods of the work and satisfaction in regard to the manner in which it is being executed have been expressed by such eminent authorities as Professor Clement L. Smith, of Harvard; Professor Murray, of Oxford, editor of the great new Oxford Dictionary; the late Professor Andrew Preston Peabody, of Harvard; Professor Seelye, of Amherst; Professor Goodell, of Yale; Professor Skeat, the eminent etymologist, of Cambridge University; Professor Sayce, of Oxford University; Professor Hunt, of Princeton; Henry Bradley, President of the English Philological Society; Hubert H. Bancroft, the historian; and many others.

An examination of the prospectus pages shows that the work combines the most desirable features of a dictionary, some of them being quite original. The illustrations are very full and made with great care. It is evidently destined to take its place as a standard work.

HORTICULTURE AT CHICAGO.

The horticultural exhibit at the Fair at Chicago appears to be giving general satisfaction and gaining thousands of admirers. The plants on the grounds are now looking fine and surprise one with their well established appearance, as if they might have been planted for years. The transformation of the grounds from prairie to well planted lawn with beautiful trees, shrubs and flowers is not one of the least of the many wonderful feats connected with the great show.

The display in the Horticultural building is of great magnitude and beauty. It is particularly rich in palms, ferns, orchids and ornamental foliaged plants. The rose display, which is now, June 16, commencing, promises to be one of great interest and will attract an immense number of admirers. The exhibits in all the departments of horticulture are very full and now in fine condition. From this time henceforward the displays will be varied from week to week and will form an especial attraction to most visitors.

THE SHAW BOTANIC GARDENS.

An account is given in the *Florists' Exchange* of the Shaw Gardens in St. Louis as it appeared when open to visitors Sunday, June 4. The gardens are open to the public only on two Sundays during the year. He says:

"Almost one thirtieth of our population went packed as sardines in the cars to see the show. The class of people was a peculiar one, consisting principally of those who cannot sacrifice a week day to see the beautiful in nature as shown in the gardens. To these the bright beds of Bourbon and Bengal roses and pansies, and the freshly planted groups of agaves, palms and aquatics gave boundless pleasure even if much trod upon feet did complain of the rudeness of the crowd; 15,200 people bustled about the few acres of the garden proper between the hours of two and four p. m. The gates were open from

two until sundown, but threatening clouds stopped them. The hours after four o'clock would certainly have brought even more than a proportionately increased attendance.

The herbaceous beds in the garden were scarcely as well out in bloom as last year. Among the most interesting groups was the small cluster of *Cypripedium regina*, a charming lilac colored variety.

A nice border of *Lonicera aurea reticulata* (golden-leaved honeysuckle) attracted much attention. The variety can be kept nicely trimmed and it will hold its color excellently.

In an old summer house where formerly ferns were kept sheltered from the sun, a rockery has been built to accommodate hardy herbaceous plants. *Aster alpina*, a beautiful blue native of Arctic shores, attracted much attention here. *Iris prismatica*, a clear blue graceful little sort, was blooming nicely in the bog.

Mr. Gurney has just about completed an attractive rockery at the spot where formerly stood the puzzle ground. It is intended to display here the Mexican cacti and other plants during the summer months."

NO SURPRISES IN THE WORLD'S FAIR ART EXHIBIT.

Beyond the fact that the American exhibit shows that we take no second place in the art of the world, there is no great surprise in store for us. Most of our best art comes from New York or Boston. Carl Marr's large canvas will doubtless make his name known to many who were not acquainted with him before. But the best art comes from just the men we should have supposed it would have come from, and with the exception of three or four who, like Homer and Inness, can hardly be said to have studied in any school, the work is that of the younger men who have studied in France and Germany. The West has not sent us any prodigies, and no artist has done for any section of our country what a group of our writers did for California before the Centennial, and a younger group has done for the South more recently. The mountains of Idaho and Washington, the plains of Dakota, the rivers of Colorado have not furnished the subject for any great painting.—From Ernest Knauff's article, "Art at the Columbian Exposition," *June Review of Reviews*.

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PERENNIALS IN BLOOM IN JUNE.

It is now the middle of June and many kinds of herbaceous perennial plants have already passed their blooming state. In the following list are named those kinds now in bloom. Some of these will continue yet for a considerable time, while many other kinds are now coming on. Some kinds, such as hepatica and hellebore, commenced to bloom soon after the frost was out of the ground; a little later the wake-robins, violets and bellworts woke up; then May came with a numerous train; later they will continue to bloom until the Japan anemone brings up the rear with its profusion of beauty.

Now the rose season is just commencing here, the Chinese pæonies are in full bloom, many kinds of shrubs are aglow with flowers, and in addition all the kinds here named, and more still, are in bloom:

Achillæa Egyptica,
 Ammsonia tabernæmontana,
 Anchusa Italica,
 Antennaria dioica,
 Anthericum liliastrium,
 Aquilegia, different varieties,
 Armeria maritima,
 Aster Alpina,
 Bellis perennis—different varieties
 of daisies,
 Campanula nobilis,
 Cerastium,
 Dianthus in variety,
 Dicentra spectabilis,
 Dicentra formosa,
 Dictamnus fraxinella,
 Digitalis purpurea—foxglove,
 Geranium sanguineum,
 Gillenia trifoliata,
 Gypsophila repens,
 Hemerocallis flava,
 Hemerocallis graminea,
 Hemerocallis Thunbergii,
 Iberis sempervirens—perennial candytuft,
 Iris—many varieties,
 Lamium, different varieties,
 Linum, different varieties,
 Lotus corniculatus,
 Lychnis viscaria fl. pl.,
 Papaver croceum,
 Papaver luteum,
 Papaver orientale,
 Papaver stylophorum,
 Pyrethrum, different varieties,
 Ranunculus aconitifolius fl. pl.,
 Salvia, different species and varieties,
 Sedum aizoon,
 Sedum Kanschaticum,
 Silene maritima,
 Spirea aruncus,
 Spirea filipendula and its varieties,
 Stellaria graminea aurea,
 Tradescantia Virginica,
 Valeriana officinalis,
 Veronica amethystina,
 Viola cornuta.

PERENNIAL LARKSPURS.

THE hybrid forms of the perennial delphiniums are among the most desirable of garden plants. They grow to a height of two to five feet, branching freely and bearing great numbers of flowers of unique form. These are of different colors, varying from white to deep blue, the principal ones being shades of purple and blue. Then there are varieties with double flowers which are particularly valuable for their durability, both on the plants and as cut flowers. The varieties are propagated from seed or by division of the roots, or by cuttings of the young shoots. When one has secured from seed desirable double varieties these should be increased either by cuttings or division. At the present time, June 15, the perennial larkspurs are just commencing to open and they will continue in

bloom all summer and even into the fall. One of the finest of the single varieties is *D. formosum*; a large flower, deep blue with a white eye. The delphiniums bear a great resemblance to the aconites in form of flower which is very attractive. Seedlings can be raised in the house early in the season and be planted out on the arrival of fine weather, or the seed can be sowed in a finely prepared bed in the open border where they will come on with ordinary care. The cut flowers can be arranged with other flowers in large bouquets, or look well set loosely in a glass or vase with other flowers of harmonious colors.



The larkspurs may appropriately be placed at the back of a garden border, where they will make a contrast with lower plants in front, bearing white, pink or yellow flowers.

JULY IN THE GARDEN.

THE present month will be a busy one in the garden, for the rapid growth of vegetation will require constant cultivation of the soil to keep down weeds. And, then, insects and fungi will make their attacks and must be successfully repulsed.

Plants in pots, whether sunk in the border or

not, will require very careful attention in watering as their demands will be unceasing.

The late crop of celery should be got in not later than the middle of the month.

Turnips can be sowed any time during the month.

Successive crops of lettuce can be put in for the next few weeks.

Cucumbers for fall use can be sowed in cold frames up to the last of the month.

Pansy seed for winter and spring blooming should be sowed by the latter part of the month.

Cuttings of many kinds of house plants and of hardy shrubs can be put in during the present and the following month.

If strawberry plants are wanted for early planting some attention should be given to the runners as they grow, placing them where the soil is soft and fixing them in place by a little

soil on them; or they can be fixed in the soil of small pots sunk in the ground, and when well rooted can be transplanted with little loss or check.

Many kinds of plants both in the flower borders and in the kitchen garden will require attention in staking, tying and training, and this should be afforded in ample time.

Such pests as potato bugs and currant worms should not be allowed to increase but be promptly destroyed on their first appearance. Better delay some other work than to let these increase.

Those intending to prepare and seed new lawns the coming autumn should not delay their preparation. The drainage of the grounds should first be considered and if necessary under-drains be made. Deep spading or plowing and pulverizing finely are matters of great importance. The fitting of land for seeding down can only be made on the start and is for an indefinite number of years; the health and beauty of the lawn will bear a direct relation to its proper preparation. The manure that is worked in should be only that which is well rotted, otherwise weed seeds will germinate from this source. A mixture of ground bone, superphosphate and muri-

ate of potash, say at the rate of two hundred pounds of each to the acre, will give a food supply which will last several years and show its effects in vigorous growth and dark green foliage. An early working of the soil and letting it lie a few weeks will give an opportunity to germinate many kinds of weed seeds which are in the soil; a second cultivation and harrowing and raking will destroy these and a cleaner lawn will be the result. A hurried preparation often entails a great amount of labor afterwards in the destruction of foul weeds which spring up with the grass. From the middle to the last of August is the best time to sow the seed and the nearer to the middle of August we have found to be best. The soil is then warm, and with a little rain germination is rapid; the weather is beginning to cool a little and all the conditions are right for the commencement of a strong, healthy growth which will be maintained until freezing weather comes.

SWEET FLOWERS.

They clamber o'er my windows,
They're peeping through the door;
They wait the sweet old fragrance
Of the hallowed blooms of yore;
I pluck a bud, and visions
Of boyhood's days arise,
When years were censors, bearing
Incense from Paradise.

The white of budding May-time,
The pink of tender June,
The breath of Summer hay-fields,
The rest of silent noon;
The fragrant turf of evening,
The low of pastured kine,
The tinkle of the sheep-bells
Idyllic scenes, once mine!

And, oh, the benediction
That came at day's recline,
When mother's prayer and blessing
Healed every grief of mine!
The scent of purple lilacs,
The spiced petunias' balm
Came stealing through the casement,
Stray chords from Nature's psalm.

My lengthening years roll backward
And I'm again a child,
Seeking the nesting ground-bird
Through tangled roses wild;
Or, deep in balsam pine-woods
I delve for satin "chinks,"
Or in the swamp for flag-root,
Mallows and waxen pinks.

Then up the garden pathway
I bear my glad surprise
To her who in the doorway
G greets me with love-lit eyes.
The table with its shortcake
And raspberry tarts, awaits,
Though robins dear have twittered
Good night to all their mates.

—Mrs. E. C. Whitney, in *Good Housekeeping*.

CONSIDER THE LILIES.

LILIUM CANDIDUM is one of the fairest of the flowers. Far and near this oldest and best known among the lilies is cultivated, loved and admired. Nature does so much for it there remains but little for the cultivator to do, yet a few points in its culture if carefully observed will tend to insure success and enhance the beauty of the blooms. First to consider is the season of planting the bulbs. So many wait until the floral guides for autumn are issued and then make their selections and send on their orders, while in reality for best results the season is somewhat late for planting this, the common white, lily. August is about the best month to order lilies, and especially Lilium candidum. As soon as received plant the bulbs in any good garden soil leaving them to nature when once planted. May or June will be the month of blooming; May in the South, June in the North. The season of bloom is over by the end of the month and then the flower-stalks harden and dry, the leaves turn yellow and wither, the bulb going into its natural season of rest. If left undisturbed it begins to grow in September, when nature takes on her second growth. The leaves put up from the earth fresh and green and apparently very tender, yet in reality hardy enough to withstand the severest winters. The blooming bulbs send up their leaves in crown shape, so it is easy to forecast the number of blooming stalks there will be in spring, and on each one from six to a dozen lily bells.

Now in August send on your orders for a few dozen nice plump bulbs which are not expensive, and when once planted you will have a standard clump of ever beautiful fragrant lilies hardy enough to endure the heat and cold as

the seasons change, blooming with unvarying regularity and multiplying rapidly for a half century if we can hope to live that long to keep the count.

"Consider the lilies" as to soil. They are dainty, rejecting rich or coarse fertilizers, but delighting in soil not too adhesive or compact. Deep in the bosom of mother earth just as the conditions of soil exist suits them. Ten inches at least they should be planted, and some sand is no objection in their bed of earth. From four to six is a good number to plant in a clump, as the blooms are much more attractive when in a mass; but I have seen the first planting of just one bulb in a place forming a row which within a few years has become a mass; so rapidly do they multiply.

Several plans are adopted to increase from the parent bulb. One good old plan recommended by Mr. James Vick, senior, over twenty years ago, is to take off the scales from the outside of the bulb, place in wet sand till rootlets form, and then plant in a box of earth. At the end of a year or when the second year's growth is about to start, transplant to the permanent bed, and by the time they are three years old magnificent blooming stalks will be produced. Then an amateur writer in one of our gardening journals recommends that the stalks when dry and hard be gently pulled from the bulb and put in a dry dark place, such as a corner of the cellar, or under the hothouse steps, and left from early summer till September when bulbets will be found to have formed in clusters around the lower ends of the stalks. Plant them carefully and await results which will be satisfactory.

To "paint the lily" by recommending it for exquisite beauty and heavenly perfume would reflect upon the culture of those for whom I write. All persons of taste know this fair and modest type of vestal purity among God's rarest gifts to man. On all occasions when flowers are used as expressions of sentiment from heart to heart, be it a *Te Deum* or a *Miserere*, this Lily, in its marble whiteness is the mold of grace, and it exhales the faintest, most delicate yet sweetest of odors. MRS. G. T. DRENNAN.

Lexington, Miss.

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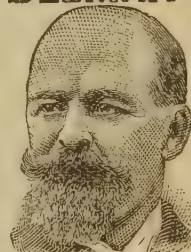


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SWEET PEAS.

Little blossoms, dancing gaily,
Pink and white and blue,
Nodding, beckoning, swinging, swaying,
Every one loves you.
Surely under every bonnet
Is a little face,
Smiling, dimpling, glancing, beaming,
Never was such grace.
Pretty flow'r folk, how we love you,
Sweet peas best of all,
Light and airy, as a fairy,
Just above the wall.

—Agnes W. McClelland, in *Good Housekeeping*.

Tulips Withering.

What causes tulips to wither just when they are about ready to bloom? I examined mine and found nothing but angle worms in great numbers. If they are the cause, what can be done to get rid of them? Please let me know through your Magazine.

Irondale, Ohio.

D. M.

Angle worms in the ground are not considered injurious ordinarily; our correspondent does not say that they are in this case. We are not told whether it is only the flower that wilts or the whole plant. If it is the whole plant, we should suspect injury to the roots and close inspection will show it. If only the bud or flower stem withers then injury to the latter may be suspected. A more careful examination will probably reveal the cause of the trouble.

Starting Cuttings—Hydrangea.

Please tell me how to start slips of begonia, fuchsia and pelargonium; whether it is best to start them in sand or in garden soil. Also, how to take care of a hydrangea.

E. A. M.

Trenton, Nebr.

Cuttings of the plants named and those of nearly all kinds of soft-wooded plants can be started in the garden from the middle of July to first of September. Select a spot where the soil is light and insert the cuttings and water them and give a little shade for a few days in the hottest part of the day. Attend well to watering and do not let them dry out, neither keep them water soaked.

There is no particular care required for hydrangeas beyond giving them good soil and keeping well supplied with water during summer.

A VALLEY OF ROSES.—Bags full of roses, baskets heavy with roses, a feast of roses, a surfeit of roses, if that is possible. The women stick roses in their long braided hair, the men in their belts, the children pull them and play with them and leave them on the road to die. There is rose-leaf jam to eat—very fresh and sweet it is—and there is rose-leaf syrup to drink. Every vase and vessel is full of roses; they drop on you from unexpected places; great bunches of bright pink heads lying on the ground admonish you as you walk; you can make a bed of them if you will; go to the granary—rosary I suppose it should be called—and there you will find as soft and sweet a couch as was ever laid in the "Arabian Nights" for Eastern princes to sleep on. This is how it came about that I saw such a multiplicity of roses. We fulfilled a long cherished scheme and went to Kezanlik, the Valley of Roses, in the Balkans, once the famous rose garden of Turkey.—*Blackwood's Magazine*.

THE CALIFORNIA POPPY.—Some of the California people are finding fault with the botanical name of the California poppy, the flower which they have adopted as their State flower. They consider it an inflection that it should bear the name "eschscholtzia" and propose to use the Spanish name of it which is "amapola."

That remedy will be only adding another foreign name, for the name eschscholtzia is fixed, and the plant will always be called by it when designated scientifically. One would think the name California poppy would be satisfactory but it appears it is not. Is there not a little affectation in calling it "amapola?" For straightforward people like Californians who believe in calling a spade a spade why isn't golden poppy good enough, good plain English, as it is?

HE WAS A LITTLE DULL.—A Penobscot county farmer, speaking of a former hired man in his employ, remarked quietly: "He's a pretty good sort of fellow, John is, but he's a little dull—a little dull." After a moment's further thought he continued, "It may be necessary to explain that a bit. I'll tell you how 'tis with him. I had a pretty nice field of onions growing, but they stood a little thick together and needed thinning out. So I told John he might do it. He worked away at them for a day or two and then I went out to see how he was getting on. I found he had pulled up all the biggest ones and thrown them away, leaving only the smallest plants in the rows. I asked him what in creation he had pulled out all the best ones for, and he said 'twas 't give the little fellows a chance, 'cos the big ones had crowded them and they couldn't grow.' A little dull, John is, a little dull."—*Exchange*.

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THE WATER HYACINTH.

TRY a plant of this curious aquatic in your garden the coming summer, it will repay you. It has only been in common cultivation a year or two, and is not nearly so well known as it ought to be. The plant floats on the surface of the water, the leaf stems being inflated into a bulb-like formation to insure buoyancy. It does fairly well when thrown into a tub of water and left to take care of itself, but to insure rapid growth and large numbers of its hyacinth-like flowers before the summer is over, you should put a little rich earth loosely around the roots of the plant, in a flower pot, or as I prefer, an old tomato can, and raise it on top of another pot placed on the bottom of the tub until it is just in the same position in the water as if it were afloat. In a short time it will send out young plants much in the same way as strawberry plants do; these will continue attached to the parent plant until they have made enough roots to enable them to live independently. These young plants may, when large enough, be put into separate tomato cans, filling about six in that way; within a few weeks they will cover the surface of the water with a dense mass of leaves and flowers. So rapidly do they grow and increase that a single plant has been known, under favorable circumstances, to cover an area of twenty square yards in a single season.—G. W. OLIVER, in *Gardening*.

ROSE LEAVES INSTEAD OF RICE.—At a recent Australian wedding, says *British Gardening*, when the bride and bridegroom were starting on their honeymoon, the guests showered rose leaves over them, the bride being literally covered with them as she sat in the carriage. This is a much more poetic kind of tribute than pounds of rice, as well as less likely to be productive of inconvenient consequences. A small grain of rice in the eye is an unpleasant companion on any journey, and on a man's wedding day he is even more than usually anxious to avoid feeling irritable. Rose leaves are much safer and prettier.

DROUGHT IN GREAT BRITAIN AND EUROPE.

—From some time early in March until the last of May a drought accompanied with unusual heat prevailed in Great Britain and on the Continent. The result has been that vegetation of all kinds has been in advance of the season—plants blooming in May that ordinarily flowered in July. The probability is that many kinds of plants will bloom a second time. The heat has been too great for crops of some kind and especially of some kinds of seed crops. The probability is that many kinds of seeds will be short and, consequently, will command a high price.

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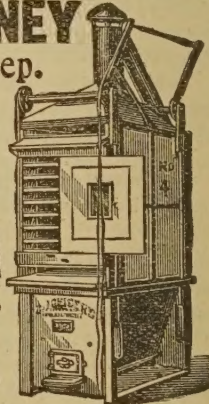
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Mexican Primrose.

What is the trouble with my Mexican primrose, why does it not blossom? I have had it over one year and it has had only three flowers. It is in an eight-inch pot and is very thrifty in growth. What can be done to make it bloom? Mrs. S. P. D.

Madison, Wis.

In a case like this there can be no better treatment than to turn the plant out into the open border where it will have all the conditions most suited to it.

Large Pansies.

A lady wrote in one of the farm or home journals that she had a "pansy blossom" measuring seven inches in circumference. We can beat her, just a little. From a packet of Vick's mixed seed we have some pansies that are the admiration of the neighborhood and the delight of their owner. When the lady wrote of her seven-inch pansy I immediately took measurements and found one over seven and a quarter inches, and yesterday another measured eight inches. I inclose some specimens.

Olalla, Oregon.

Mrs. H. J. W.

The specimens are very fine, and we think others will be able to confirm the statement of our correspondent by measurements as large.

Tea Roses for Winter Bloom.

Will you please inform me through the columns of your Magazine how to care for Tea roses in order to have them bloom in winter? E. I. E.

Millville, Pa.

Keep the plants growing thrifly during the summer. Plunge the pots in a somewhat shaded place in coal ashes so that worms cannot enter the pots. Attend to the watering carefully and syringe the foliage every day. Shift the plants into larger pots as they fill the soil with roots. By the middle of August lessen the supply of water to ripen and harden the wood. By the middle of September the plants can be taken inside and started into fresh growth.

Agapanthus umbellatus.

I have an African lily and it is just grand, color blue and white, over seventy lilies on one stalk; it blooms only every other year. Can you tell me how to treat it so as to make it bloom every year? I keep it in a pail and put it in the cellar through the winter. Must I leave it in the pail through the summer or put it out in the ground? Must I divide it when it multiplies or leave it all together? If you please answer in your Magazine; we get it and like it very much.

Mrs. A. M.

Fullers Station, N. Y.

Our inquirer is scarcely in need of instruction in regard to the care of this plant. With seventy blooms on a stalk one can hardly desire more. Another plant of the same kind which should bloom on the alternate years would give an annual succession of the flowers. As the plant is not hardy in this region it should be kept in the pot. The plant can be divided in the spring before it is started to grow.

Onion and Radish Seed.

Would you kindly tell me in your next Magazine which is the proper time to gather onion seed, just before the seed pods burst open or after? Also, when to harvest the Black Spanish radish for winter use? By answering the above in your next issue you would oblige one who is just commencing to try and save a little seed.

A CONSTANT READER.

Netawaka, Kans.

Onion seed is gathered when the heads are mature but before the seeds begin to fall. The heads should be cut off and placed in a sack or laid on a cloth and carried to an airy loft or vacant room where they can be spread out thin on a cloth or sheet and be left for some time to dry. When quite dry the seed can be beaten out.

There will be no difficulty in telling when the pods of the radish are in proper condition to remove; this will be known by their yellowish and ripe appearance. Do not wait for them to burst open but gather them carefully and lay them away in the shade in a ventilated room to dry.

Fuchsia Buds Falling.

Will you kindly tell me through your Magazine what is the cause of buds falling off fuchsias and what can be done to prevent it? I have a very thrifty plant (some call it the umbrella fuchsia) which was full of buds when winter set in, and has been ever since. The buds swell until I think they will burst into bloom in a few days, then they drop off.

Can pansies be grown in the house to bloom in the winter? Mrs. C. W. P.


Too much water while the plants are in too low a temperature is frequently the cause of the buds of fuchsias falling off.

Pansies to bloom well require a low temperature, and the greatest difficulty in blooming the plants in the house would be the warm dry air. If the plants could have a cool room there should be no trouble in blooming them.



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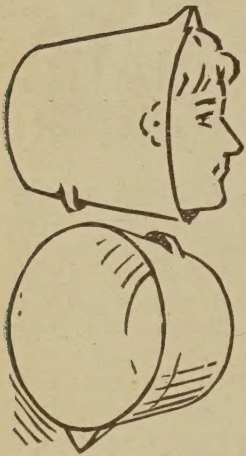
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Some women are afraid of Pearline. They think that where cleaning is made so easy, there must be some harm to the thing washed. But Pearline can't hurt milk pails, anyway. And it can't hurt the finest lace or the softest hands, any more than it hurts milk pails.

Not So with the imitations—the fact that they are imitators or followers proves a lack of something. 389

LAURA MCHENRY, in *Godey's*, makes the following sensible suggestions: "A dozen years ago I learned from an old Connecticut gardener a plan for growing cucumbers and melons which I have practiced ever since with unbounded success, and which I commend to every one who has a small garden. Dig the ground up mellow and deep, and make it pretty rich. Then make hills eight or ten feet apart each way, very slightly raised and about three feet in diameter. Now you need as many empty barrels (without a head in either end) as you have hills. Stand a barrel in the center of each hill and press it down into the soil so that it will not blow over. Nearly fill each barrel with fertilizer from the stable, old leaves, etc., and pour a pail or so of water on each. Now around the outside of the barrels plant the seeds and when the plants come up thin them out so that they are about six inches apart. Throughout the summer, instead of watering the plants directly, simply pour water by the pailful into the barrels of compost and it will filter through slowly carrying moisture and nutriment to the very roots of the vines around the edge of the barrel."

FITS.—All Fits stopped free by **Dr. Kline's Great Nerve Restorer**. No fits after the first day's use. Marvelous cures. Treatise and \$2.00 trial bottle free to Fit cases. Send to Dr. Kline, 931 Arch St., Phila., Pa.

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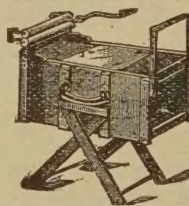


I have berries, grapes and peaches, a year old, fresh as when picked. I use "Hood's improved process;" do not heat or seal the fruit, just put it up cold. Keeps perfectly fresh, and costs almost nothing; can put up a bushel in ten minutes. Last week I sold directions to over one hundred families. Any one will pay a dollar for directions when they see the beautiful fruit samples. Fall and winter are the best time to sell directions, so people can experiment and be ready for next fruit season. As there are many poor people like myself I consider it my duty to give my experience to such, and feel confident anyone can make one or two hundred dollars around home in a few days. I will mail sample of fruit and complete directions to any of your readers for 19 two-cent stamps, which is only the actual cost of the sample, postage, etc., to me.

Mrs. W. M. Griffith, New Concord, Ohio.

When writing to advertisers, mention Vick's Magazine.

PEAR BLIGHT.—The pear blight is reported as unusually prevalent at the South at the present time and especially with the Le Conte, a variety which was supposed to be blight proof. Other varieties which have been grafted on the Le Conte are also badly affected.



The Rocker Washer

has proved the most satisfactory of any Washer ever placed upon the market. It is warranted to wash an ordinary family washing of **100 PIECES IN ONE HOUR**, as clean as can be washed on the washboard. Write for prices and full description.

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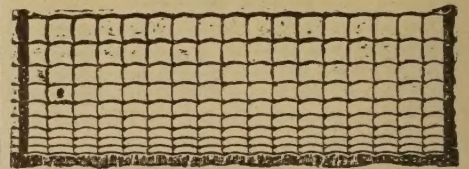
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